

CHAPTER 2 ANIMAL CONTROL

ARTICLE 2.01 ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 2.01.001 Definitions

Domestic Animals. Recognized domestic breeds of dogs and/or cats, birds, fish, gerbils, hamsters, nonpoisonous reptiles, and pot-bellied pigs. This definition excludes dangerous wild animals.

Fowl. Any birds belonging to the game fowl, land fowl (Galliformes), or waterfowl (Anseriformes) biological orders, including but not limited to poultry, chickens, guineas, laying hens, turkeys, ~~guineas~~, ducks, geese, pheasants, quails, and peacocks, but not including common household birds, emus, and ostriches.

Livestock. Domesticated mammals other than dogs, cats, ferrets, gerbils, hamsters, mice, potbellied pigs, and rabbits, including but not limited to horses, cattle, mules, goats, sheep, miniature horses, and other similar animals traditionally raised in an agricultural setting. The term shall also include emus and ostriches.

ARTICLE 2.05 KEEPING OF DOMESTIC PETS, LIVESTOCK, AND FOWL*

Sec. 2.05.001 In general

- (a) Domestic pets shall be limited to domestic animals only.
- (b) No person may possess, harbor, or maintain any type of livestock or fowl within the corporate limits of the city.
- (c) Subsection (b) shall not apply to lots or tracts of property one acre or greater in size located within the following districts, as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 11 of this Code:
 - (1) [Development Reserve \(DR\)](#);
 - (2) Estate Residential (ES); and
 - (3) Suburban Residential (SR).
- (d) Where permitted by Subsection (c), livestock and fowl shall be maintained solely for the direct benefit of the residents of the property and may not be used for commercial sale or production purposes.

Sec. 2.05.002 Keeping of livestock

Where permitted by Section 2.05.001(c), all livestock shall be maintained in accordance with Article 2.07 of this Chapter and the following requirements:

- (a) In ES and SR districts, livestock shall be limited to one animal per acre of land;
- (b) Livestock weighing twenty (20) pounds or less at maturity shall be contained in a ventilated or open-air cage, pen, coop, or enclosure with a minimum of three (3) square feet of covered floor space per animal; and
- (c) All cages, pens, coops, and enclosures in which livestock are kept or harbored shall be a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet away from any property lines.

Sec. 2.05.003 Keeping of fowl

Where permitted by Section 2.05.001(c), all fowl shall be maintained in accordance with Article 2.07 of this Chapter and the following requirements:

- (a) In ES and SR districts, fowl shall be limited to no more than fifteen (15) total per lot or parcel, including no more than one (1) rooster;
- (b) Fowl shall at all times be confined in a fully enclosed and ventilated or open-air cage, pen, coop, or enclosure with a minimum of three (3) square feet of covered floor space per animal, except that in RA districts, fowl may be kept or harbored free of such confinement, so long as the fowl remains on its owner's lot; and
- (c) All cages, pens, coops, and enclosures in which fowl are kept or harbored shall be a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet away from any property lines.

Sec. 2.05.004 Livestock and fowl not to run at-large

No person shall cause, permit, or allow livestock or fowl to be, and no owner shall fail to prevent their livestock or fowl from being at-large within the city.

State law references—Animals running at-large on highways, [V.T.C.A., Agriculture Code, sec. 143.101 et seq.](#)

Sec. 2.05.005 Impoundment of livestock or fowl

Animal control officers are authorized to impound all livestock or fowl in violation of this chapter, subject to terms and conditions established throughout this chapter. Livestock will be held by a private contractor with the owner being responsible for all impound, transportation, medical treatment, boarding, feeding, and any other expenses incurred in impounding the livestock. All fees and charges must be paid prior to release of the livestock.

Sec. 2.05.006 Liability

If necessary to ensure the public safety and avoid injuries to persons or damage to property, any livestock or fowl that is in danger of entering a public roadway may be tranquilized by an animal control officer, or, if the livestock or fowl cannot be tranquilized or corralled in a timely manner and the circumstances are of an emergent nature, such livestock or fowl may be destroyed by an

animal control officer. Neither the city nor the animal control officer(s) acting under this article shall be liable for damages to or loss of such livestock or fowl.

ARTICLE 2.12 BREEDING AND SALE OF ANIMALS

Sec. 2.12.001 Breeding of animals prohibited

No person shall permit, facilitate, promote, or allow breeding of any animals in [Development Reserve \(DR\)](#), Estate Residential (ES), Suburban Residential (SR), Semi-Urban Residential (SU), Urban Residential (UR), or Multifamily Residential (MF) zoning districts, as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 11 of this Code. Where permitted, all breeding activities shall be in accordance with the laws of the state.

Sec. 2.12.002 Sale of animals prohibited

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or make available for sale any animal on the public streets, alleys, rights-of-way, parks, or other public property within the city, or upon property of another without such owner's consent; except that it shall not be a violation of this section for the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, Humane Society, or any other shelter/rescue operation to sell or make available for sale or adoption dogs or cats on public property with the city's approval.

Sec. 2.12.003 Enforcement; impoundment

- (a) An animal control officer shall have the authority to impound any animal deemed to be bred, sold, or for sale in violation of this article.
- (b) The owner of any animal impounded pursuant to this article shall be liable to the city in the amount of the impoundment and boarding fees charged the owner pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, and any animal impounded pursuant to this article shall be handled and disposed of in the same manner as any animal which is so confined because of being found at-large within the city.